Please cancel claims 187-190

191. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim ~~187~~211 wherein:

there is a plurality of types of model entities; and

a representation of a model entity specifies the represented model entity's type.

192. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim ~~187~~211 wherein:

the model further includes representations of further information that are related to certain of the representations of the model entities; and

~~the processor responds to further inputs of the first inputs by outputting the~~the graphical user interface further permits the user to access the representations of the related further information ~~and receives further inputs of the second inputs to which the processor responds by accessing the related further information~~.

193. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 192 wherein:

~~the interface further receives still further inputs of the second inputs to which the processor responds by modifying~~the graphical user interface further permits the user to modify the further information.

194. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

the further information is a document that is accessible to the system.

195. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

the further information is a message sent to the person by another person.

196. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 194 wherein:

the further information is a discussion concerning the model entity among the persons.

197. (currently amended) A data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that:

the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer system, implements the system set forth in claim ~~187~~211.

198. (currently amended). A method of supporting management of a ~~business~~ collaborative activity in a system which includes a processor, the processor having access to a database containing a model of the ~~business~~collaborative activity, the model including representations of model entities, a given representation of a model entity being capable of simultaneously belonging to hierarchies including a hierarchy and another hierarchy, and the representations of model entities providing access to information relating to the ~~business~~collaborative activity, the processor providing an interface for one or more users of the system who are not specialists in information technology, and the method comprising the steps performed in the system of:

receiving a definition of a model entity belonging to ~~a~~ the model of the collaborative activity ~~of the business~~ from a ~~person involved in the business~~user via the interface and responding thereto by producing a representation of the model entity in the database; and

receiving a first indication of a first hierarchical relationship between the model entity and another model entity belonging to the hierarchy from the user via the interface and responding thereto by ~~using the interface to relate~~relating the model entity to the other model entity in the hierarchy and

receiving a second indication of a second hierarchical relationship between the model entity and a third model entity belonging to the other hierarchy from the user via the interface and responding thereto by ~~using the interface to relate~~relating the model entity to the third model entity in the other hierarchy.

199. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the step of:

receiving an indication from the ~~person~~ user via the interface that one or the other of the hierarchical relationships is to be shown in the interface and responding thereto by showing the indicated relationship in the interface.

200. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 wherein:

the hierarchy and the other hierarchy are different types of hierarchical relationships.

201. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 200 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a third indication from the ~~person~~user via the interface of the type of hierarchical relationship to be used in displaying the model entity in the interface; and

responding thereto by displaying the model entity in the interface using the indicated hierarchical relationship.

202. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 199 wherein:

the indicated hierarchical relationship is shown in the interface by displaying model entities as sorted by the relationship.

203. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 198 wherein the representation of the model entity includes a representation of information about the ~~business~~ collaborative activity and

the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a third indication of the model entity from the person via the interface;

receiving a fourth indication of the information from the ~~person~~user via the interface; and

responding thereto by producing the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity.

204. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a fifth indication from the ~~person~~user via the interface that the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity is to be displayed; and

responding thereto by showing the indicated information in the interface.

205. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the step of:

receiving a sixth information from the ~~person~~user via the interface that the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity is to be modified; and

responding thereto by permitting the user to modify the information.

206. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the steps of:

_____receiving a sixth indication from the ~~person~~user via the interface that the model entities are to be sorted by values of the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity; and

responding thereto by showing the sorted model entities in the interface.

207. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a third indication from the ~~person~~user via the interface of a model entity;

receiving a fourth indication that further information is to be related to the indicated model entity; and

responding thereto by relating a representation of the further information to the representation of the indicated model entity.

208. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 207 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a fifth indication from the ~~person~~user via the interface that the further information related to the model entity is to be displayed; and

responding thereto by showing the related further information in the interface.

209. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 208 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a sixth indication from the ~~person~~user via the interface that the further information related to the model entity is to be modified; and

responding thereto by modifying the related further information.

210. (previously presented) A data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that:

the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer system, implements the method set forth in claim 198.

211. (new) A system for supporting management of a collaborative activity by persons involved therein, the persons not being specialists in information technology and the system comprising:

a representation of a model of the collaborative activity, the representation being accessible to a processor and the model of the collaborative activity including model entities, the model entities providing access to information concerning the collaborative activity, being organized into a plurality of hierarchies having a plurality of types, and a given model entity being capable of simultaneously belonging to a hierarchy having one of the types and a hierarchy having another of the types; and

a graphical user interface for the system which the processor provides to the persons, the graphical user interface permitting a person of the persons to perform operations on a model entity as limited by a type of access which the person has to the model entity, the operations including controlling access to the model entity, creating, modifying, and/or deleting the model entity, assigning the model entity to a location in a

hierarchy, accessing and/or modifying the information concerning the collaborative activity via the model entity, viewing model entities as ordered by a hierarchy to which the entities belong, and viewing model entities as ordered by a value in the information concerning the collaborative activity to which the entities give access.